



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

GRANT PERIOD: 2017–2022

MILWAUKEE PARTNERSHIP ON WELL-BEING AND RECOVERY (M-POWER) PROGRAM

LEAD AGENCY: Meta House, Inc.

TARGET SERVICE AREA: Milwaukee County

LOCATION: Milwaukee, WI

**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES REGION:** 5

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVED: WI-004

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Milwaukee Partnership on Well-Being and Recovery (M-POWER) is a Regional Partnership Program to improve well-being, family functioning, safety, and permanency for families of women with substance use disorders (SUD) who are involved with or at risk of involvement with the child welfare system or family drug treatment court. The program expands the existing partnership between the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS), Milwaukee County's Family Drug Treatment Court (FDTC), and Meta House, a community-based agency providing SUD treatment for women and families. The partners collaborate to provide families with sober recovery housing, outpatient treatment, child and family services, and recovery support services all aimed at improving well-being for adults and children, safety, permanency, and family functioning.

TARGET POPULATION: The target population for M-POWER is families of women who are in need of SUD treatment and recovery housing, and who are involved with or at risk of involvement with child welfare or FDTC.

PROJECTED NUMBERS SERVED: The program will serve 72 families over the course of the grant.

MAJOR PROGRAM GOALS

- GOAL 1:** Implement a successful partnership between Meta House, DMCPS, and FDTC with a shared purpose of stabilizing, strengthening, preserving, and reuniting families and contributing to child well-being, safety, and permanency.
- GOAL 2:** Provide trauma-informed, family-centered recovery housing and treatment for families.
- GOAL 3:** Improve women's level of functioning related to substance use and the effects of trauma to support child well-being, safety, and permanency.
- GOAL 4:** Improve family functioning, strengthen protective factors, and support reconnecting families to contribute to child safety and permanence.
- GOAL 5:** Promote healthy child development and improve social-emotional skills.

KEY PROGRAM SERVICES

- Assistance with arranging and supervising onsite visits with children living off-site
- Celebrating Families!
- Contingency Management
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Group
- Early Pathways
- Family-Centered Recovery Housing
- Father Involvement Specialist
- Filial Therapy
- Gender-Responsive Treatment
- Group and individual parenting education
- Individual therapeutic interventions for children (including play therapy and cognitive-behavioral play therapy)
- Intensive/Coordinated Case Management
- Intensive Outpatient Treatment
- Joint Family Case Conferencing
- Motivational Interviewing
- Nurturing Fathers Program or 24/7 Dad
- Nurturing Parenting Program
- On-site childcare (at outpatient treatment facility)
- Peer Recovery Coaching
- Peer Specialists
- Seeking Safety
- Support for Child Visitation
- Transitional Housing and Supports—Individual Family Housing Units
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Treatment for Co-Occurring Disorders

PARTNER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services
- Family Drug Treatment Court
- Evaluator—IMPACT, Inc.

EVALUATION DESIGN

The local evaluation of M-POWER has an impact study and a process and collaboration study. The grantee is also participating in the RPG cross-site evaluation studies of family and child outcomes, program implementation, and collaboration among RPG grantees and partners.

IMPACT STUDY DESIGN

The grantee uses a quasi-experimental design to examine the impact of its RPG services. Members of the program group receive supportive recovery housing and services for up to 12 months, including an apartment in the recovery housing community, outpatient SUD treatment and mental health services, and in-home parenting and therapy services. Women also have access to a peer specialist and case management. Members of the comparison group are drawn from the population of Meta House clients receiving business-as-usual outpatient SUD services and mental health services. These are the same SUD and mental health services received by women in the program group, but women in the comparison group receive these services for approximately 4 months (on average). The impact study will include 72 families in the program group; it is anticipated that the number of families in the comparison group will be similar. The grantee will examine impacts in the following domains: permanency, safety, family functioning, and child well-being.

Data sources include administrative data and information obtained by data collectors using standardized instruments. Internal evaluation staff use the instruments to collect data from both program and comparison group members. Data will be collected at four time points for each program and comparison group family: (1) when families begin services (baseline), (2) 6 months after baseline, (3) 12 months after baseline, and (4) at discharge from services.

PROCESS AND COLLABORATION STUDY DESIGN

In the process and partnership study, the grantee examines how the program is implemented (focusing on fidelity to the model and the integration of services related to new collaborations), characteristics of the population receiving services, which services are provided to particular families and whether these services align with their needs, and the dosage of services that are actually received. The grantee also uses the process evaluation to assess the development of the partnership between the DMCPs, Family Drug Treatment Court (FTDC), and Meta House. Data sources include program documents, electronic health records, project monitoring through formal fidelity assessments, and interviews with staff, partners, and participants.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

Meta House has a long history of collaboration with child welfare and continuing the most beneficial portions of the collaboration well beyond the end of grant funding. This project extends the partnership, shows the value of supportive recovery housing for families, and works to enact systems change to provide recovery housing to more families beyond the end of grant funding. Sustainability planning is part of the partnership process from the beginning of grant funding, and partners work toward a model to improve long-term family functioning, well-being, safety, and permanency. Planning includes identification of the most beneficial parts of the model and a focus on continuing those services. The evaluation findings will help inform that decision. The dissemination of evaluation findings from the project will be a crucial part of long-term sustainability, showing that the M-POWER program is an effective way to improve outcomes for families.

This grantee profile is supported by the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families Children's Bureau, under contract HHSS270201700001C. This content represents the work of The Center for Children and Family Futures, and does not reflect the opinions of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families.